

BAD DRIVING

WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

21 Tips To Drive By



- 1 Be physically and mentally prepared to drive. Know your abilities and your vehicle's capabilities before departure.
- 2 Keep your mind and your full attention on your driving. Talking on cell phones, eating or drinking, tuning car radios, disciplining children and other activities while driving are distractions that can lead to crashes.
- 3 Do not drive after using any drugs or alcohol. Your blood/alcohol level should be zero anytime you drive.
- 4 Be aware of the dangers other drivers pose. Crashes can happen anywhere, anytime.
- 5 Always wear seatbelts and use child restraints even in parking lots.
- 6 Plan to adjust and adapt to changing road, weather and traffic conditions.
- 7 When you leave your house 10 minutes late, expect to get where you're going 10 minutes late.
- 8 Don't follow too close. This is a common cause of crashes. Stay at least 2 seconds behind the car in front of you, or about one car length for every 10 miles per hour you're driving. Use more caution if the speed limit is higher or if road or weather conditions are poor. You'll need more room to stop safely.
- 9 Look ahead at least one or two blocks so you can anticipate changes in traffic flow and upcoming traffic control devices, including school zones, stop signs and signals.
- 10 Keep your bad driving habits in check. Don't roll through stop signs or rush through yellow lights. It's just a matter of time before these bad habits lead to crashes.
- 11 Drive the speed limit. Many drivers have the misconception that if other motorists are driving 5 or 10 miles above the speed limit, it's OK to speed. It's not. You can get a ticket or cause a crash.
- 12 Avoid excess lane changes. It won't get you there any faster.
- 13 Use extreme caution when backing up. Visibility is always reduced if you're driving backward.
- 14 Remember that Las Vegas and Southern Nevada are tourist destinations, and our population grows by 5,000 new residents a month. Be patient with other motorists.
- 15 Use your turn signals. They help drivers anticipate each others' moves on the road, reducing the chance of crashes.
- 16 Learn the traffic laws of each state where you travel. Laws can vary greatly on u-turns and right turns on red, in particular. The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles Driver's Handbook is available online at www.dmvnv.com.
- 17 Stress and aggressive driving are combinations on the road that can be deadly. Plan your route, allow enough time and if you're late, you're late. Let aggressive drivers pass. Report serious aggressive driving by calling Metro at 3-1-1 or Nevada Highway Patrol at *N-H-P.
- 18 Maintain your vehicle in good working mechanical condition.
- 19 Check your tires for proper air pressure and wear. Tire pressures vary depending on vehicle models so check your owner's manual.
- 20 Carpool. It can reduce insurance rates and studies show it's a safer way to drive.
- 21 Pull to the right so emergency vehicles can pass.

